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Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Organizational matters	2
	UNDP segment	
II.	Statement by the Administrator and annual report of the Administrator	2
III.	Funding commitments to UNDP	5
IV.	Human Development Report	6
V.	UNDP country programmes and related matters	6
VI.	United Nations Capital Development Fund	7
VII.	United Nations Volunteers	8
	UNOPS segment	
VIII.	Statement by the Executive Director and annual report of the Executive Director	10
	Joint segment	
IX.	Internal audit and oversight	11
X.	Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Ethics Offices	15
	UNFPA segment	
XI.	Statement by the Executive Director and annual report of the Executive Director	16
XII.	Funding commitments to UNFPA	19
XIII.	UNFPA country programmes and related matters	20
XIV.	Other matters	21

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I. Organizational matters

1. The annual session 2012 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS was held at the United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, from 25 June to 29 June 2012.

2. The Executive Board approved the agenda and workplan for its annual session 2012 (DP/2012/L.2) and approved the report of the first regular session 2012 (DP/2012/5 and Add.1).

3. The Executive Board agreed in decision DP/2012/20 to the following schedule for future sessions of the Executive Board in 2012:

Second regular session: 4 to 10 September 2012.

4. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the annual session 2012 appear in document DP/2012/16, accessible at www.undp.org/execbrd.

5. Delegations acknowledged the impact of last year's proposal and decision adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to transfer costs of official meetings from the United Nations Secretariat to individual Funds and Programmes. They suggested that cost-savings options further enhance dialogue, knowledge-sharing and transparency in decision-making, and balance with sufficient means for Member States to provide oversight of the activities of the three organizations, especially with regard to working and official languages and timely translation of documents and administration. They urged for a thorough review of related working methods in coordination with relevant United Nations agencies and entities.

UNDP segment

II. Statement by the Administrator and annual report of the Administrator

6. In her opening statement to the Executive Board, Administrator Helen Clark introduced three new members of senior management: Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States; Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of Management; and, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. She acknowledged the presence and commitment of Executive Board members and representatives of other Member States, especially as this year's annual meeting came in the midst of a series of high-level conferences and events.

7. The Administrator highlighted key results of UNDP assistance in 2011 and the annual report's use of new outcome and output indicators. She focused on successes in poverty reduction, food security, gender-sensitive HIV response, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and energy. She was pleased to report the launch of UNDP's first Africa Human Development Report.

8. Reflecting on 2012 and beyond, the Administrator, as head of UNDP and chair of the United Nations Development Group, elaborated on opportunities for advancing the development agenda. She focused on areas of UNDP engagement in inter-governmental processes and within the context of priorities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda, covering: the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) development framework; the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Independent Evaluation of Delivering as One (Tirana). She then outlined the roadmap for the 2014-2017 strategic plan and remarked on interlinkages of the QCPR, the internal agenda for organizational change and the annual business plan.

9. The Administrator emphasized UNDP's firm commitment to improving transparency and accountability. She highlighted steps already taken with Member States and inter-governmental donors to increase access to internal audit reports and reassured safeguards for confidentiality and appropriate capacity would be put into place for full public disclosure of internal audit reports.

10. In their general remarks, delegations were pleased with the strategic direction and progress of the internal agenda for organizational change and the introduction of the Annual Business Plan. They welcomed the plan to encourage each country office and programme unit to follow a three-part strategy and looked forward to future feedback on this endeavor. Several delegations requested more information on actual outcomes and impact of the internal agenda for change and the business plan, in terms of enhanced and transformed institutional behavior, including at the country office level, and options for country presence to be able to flexibly and innovatively respond to needs on the ground.

11. Delegations stressed the important role of UNDP in the QCPR discussion and the opportunity to set a framework for effective collaboration among organizations at the country office level. They spoke about the future of Delivering as One with reference to the independent evaluation (Tirana), highlighting the following areas: (a) the need to identify sustainable funding modalities for the Funding as One programme; (b) the United Nations working "as one" as a main modality for engagement at the country level; (c) more pro-active collaboration with agencies to strengthen the role of the Resident Coordinator and harmonize business practices.

12. Delegations made wide-ranging comments on priorities, resourcing and development approaches to be fed into the strategic plan 2014-2017. In this respect, they stressed that the UNDP agenda should reflect outcomes of Rio+20, the post-2015 MDG development framework, Delivering as One (Tirana), the Istanbul Conference on Least Developed Countries, and the QCPR. They emphasized a number of cross-cutting areas for UNDP to focus on, inter alia: (a) low-income and least developed countries, especially in Africa; (b) capacity-building in developing countries, with a differentiated approach in middle-income countries, in areas such as technology transfer, self-resourcing and other financing mechanisms, clean energy initiatives, youth employment, trade, and agriculture; (c) greater use and structural flexibility of the South-South Cooperation Unit to contribute to regional and global policy and development efforts.

13. Delegations underscored the need for greater UNDP strategic positioning given the changing development landscape, technological innovation, emerging donor countries and new partnerships with the private sector. They underlined the importance of an enhanced results-based management framework and new and refined indicators in the next strategic plan, as well as sharpened focus on UNDP areas of added value. To this end, they encouraged more effort on building capacity in resilience, particularly with respect to food security and in the context of poverty eradication, as well as on social and economic development, namely, inclusive growth and income.

14. Along these lines, a number of delegations viewed democratic governance as a potential flagship of UNDP work as it underpins many aspect of sustainable development. They urged UNDP to mainstream democratic governance throughout its programmes, to include rule of law, democratic institutions, good governance and human rights. In this regard, they called for more resources, such as through the democratic governance thematic fund, and with regard to internal resource allocations and contributions.

15. In a statement by the African States, it was stressed that international development cooperation efforts need to better create an enabling environment for progress in Africa, particularly with respect to MDG acceleration. They underscored

that the gaps in meeting the MDGs will limit the capacity of many African nations to move forward on a post-2015 MDG agenda, especially as those countries face ongoing climate change consequences, such as food and human insecurity. It was emphasized that access to financing, technology, improved market access, and educational opportunities, especially for young people, were crucial to meeting both climate adaptation and development goals.

16. Delegations welcomed the first Annual Report based on the revised results-based framework as a milestone in UNDP results-based reporting and as a work in progress. They made the following suggestions for future reports: (a) refine outcome definitions and indicators to allow for more credible measurement in reporting positive change and results; (b) illustrate the case for UNDP specific contribution and added-value through more qualitative narrative, which could in part be drawn from the wealth of data in the annexes; (c) consider alternatives to the output engagement profiles to capture UNDP contribution to outcomes at the national level; (d) include lessons learned, risks and challenges (policy, operational, institutional), reasons for not achieving stated objectives and what needs to be done to get back on track; (e) input cross-cutting issues of human rights and gender, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation.

17. A number of delegations stressed the critical importance of the evaluation function for donor countries' financial support and improvement at the national level. They called for better use of evaluation findings, especially at the regional level, as a learning process to improve performance and for reporting and planning purposes. They emphasized that senior managers should be responsible for conducting quality evaluations at the country office level.

18. Delegations emphasized transparency and accountability as crucial to understanding strengths and weaknesses and welcomed steps taken by UNDP in this respect. They broadly welcomed the proposal for full disclosure of internal audit reports by the end of the year, stressing the need for appropriate safeguards for confidentiality, resources and capacity to cope with inquiries from the public.

19. Delegations acknowledged the slight increase in core resources when compared with the previous three years but expressed concern on the overall drop in resources and lower projection of core funding contributions for 2012. They urged UNDP to implement the "critical mass" concept, in effect, to do more with less and reflect this in the agenda for organizational change and the next strategic plan. Reiterating their call for predictable and sustainable resources, many delegations encouraged UNDP to innovate and diversify its funding base, such as with the private sector and new donor countries, and address cost-recovery issues. They worried about the increasing use of restrictive earmarked funds and suggested to explore the use of "soft" earmarked resources for longer-term approaches.

20. The Administrator thanked delegations for their encouraging and constructive comments on progress made in performance and achievements in 2011, the revised annual report, and recognition of UNDP as a leader in debates and conferences on development cooperation. She underscored the value of new partnership agreements with a number of middle-income countries and welcomed recent electoral expertise exchanges, for example, among Mexico and transitioning states in the Middle East and other South-South cooperation initiatives. She spoke about progress in emergency relief and coordination and development responses, and the impact of the MDG acceleration framework in the vulnerable setting of the Sahel, citing the example of UNDP collaboration with Niger in the development of an action plan and strategies to address continuing episodes of food insecurity.

21. The Administrator reiterated the Annual report was a work in progress. In this respect, she welcomed collaboration with Member States to identify fewer and clearer outcomes for a more accurate picture and stronger communication of UNDP's

impact, particularly in the context of preparation of the next Strategic Plan as well as for future annual reports. She acknowledged the need to explore the relevance of the engagement profiles and the challenge of country offices reporting the same type of activity under different outcomes. In closing, she expressed appreciation for all those who fund UNDP and their accountability to the public, reaffirming commitment to better results-based reporting and telling of the UNDP story.

22. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/9: Annual report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results for 2011.

III. Funding commitments to UNDP

23. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy presented the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2012 and onwards (DP/2012/8).

24. At the outset, some delegations proposed merging this item with the Annual report of the Administrator in future sessions because the majority of delegations share their comments on funding issues in their general remarks.

25. Delegations expressed their serious concern over the drop in overall resources and reiterated the need for predictable, stable, less restrictive, and, ideally, multi-year core funding for UNDP to fulfil its strategic priorities for sustainable development. In this respect, they stressed that UNDP should continue to evolve its results-based orientation and results reporting, and be realistic in its planning process in recognition that the financial situation will most likely not change dramatically in the coming years. They further urged traditional Member State donors to maintain current levels at a minimum and for new donors to scale up their contributions.

26. A number of delegations suggested it was time to move beyond the core versus non-core resources debate. They emphasized the urgent need for an open discussion on overall resources in the QCPR and beyond, including on the following: a) the challenge of the escalating use of short-term, project-oriented, earmarked funding; b) what is required for donors to provide more "soft" or qualitative earmarked funding on a programmatic level according to a global theme, region, country programme as a whole or by sector; and, c) what can be done to make it more attractive to give to UNDP, with more strategic communication and differentiated cost recovery rates as suggestions.

27. A number of delegations welcomed the development of the integrated resource management framework, as outlined under the agenda for organizational change, to better track resources and align with priorities in the strategic plan. They expressed the desire for the framework to be more than just a tracking mechanism, but one under which all UNDP core and non-core resources align with priorities set with and agreed upon by the Board in the strategic plan. They questioned why this framework remains only internal and suggested it be brought to the Board for dialogue and decisions on financing in conjunction with the new strategic plan, with the goal of connecting all resources to results UNDP sets to achieve.

28. The Assistant Administrator thanked delegations for their comments. She reaffirmed UNDP alignment with the thinking presented by delegations on the status of funding, noting the need to conduct a number of studies for more detailed discussions. She requested guidance from the Board in determining an adequate definition of a "critical mass" of funding as well as for suggestions for more effective communication of results. She highlighted the potential of assessments and evaluations of UNDP to gain political and financial support. She emphasized opportunities in the post-Rio+20 era for financing for development, including with the private sector. In closing, she welcomed further dialogue with the Executive

Board during the integrated budget management framework debate on "soft" earmarked funds as a way forward, and with countries that have signed a strategic framework agreement with UNDP for their input on strategic direction.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/10: Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2012 and onwards.

IV. Human Development Report

30. In line with General Assembly resolution 57/264, the Deputy Director, Human Development Report Office, presented an update on Human Development Report (HDR) preparation and consultations (DP/2012/9). In addition, he announced the planned launch date of late October for this year's Human Development Report, namely, Rise of the Global South: Human Progress in a Diverse World.

31. Delegations reiterated the value of the HDR as a tool to create global awareness on human development issues, calling it a flagship publication. They supported the mainstreaming of the human development perspective into the post-2015 MDG development framework and other similar development cooperation agendas. Many delegations commended the latest HDR preparation process and consensus-building efforts, highlighting the quantity, quality, diversity and geographical relevance of the consultations, and requested this approach continues in the future.

32. The 2012 HDR theme was praised by delegations as timely and relevant in light of changing global dynamics, South-South initiatives and the post-2015 agenda. Delegations underscored the need for content to reflect, inter alia: the principle of neutrality; statistical equity and integrity, in line with implementation of recommendations made by the United Nations Statistical Commission; the role of the North; disparities within the South; and, outcomes from the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Istanbul).

33. The Executive Board took note of the update of the Human Development Report preparations and consultations.

V. UNDP country programmes and related matters

34. The Associate Administrator introduced the item (DP/2012/10/Rev.1; DP/2012/10/Add.1). She reiterated the Administrator's opening statement about the opportunities for UNDP engagement in Myanmar for a full country programme in complementarity with partners and in the context of reforms happening within the country.

35. Directors of regional bureaux and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative of Moldova presented 13 draft country programmes and a number of extensions of country programmes, respectively, and screened film shorts of UNDP work in Afghanistan, Rwanda and Tunisia. Delegations were then invited to comment.

36. The draft country programmes were welcomed by delegations as more reflective and responsive to national priorities, aligned with UNDP comparative advantages, and grounded on an enhanced results-based framework. A few delegations stressed the importance of completion of projects within the proposed timeframe and of accountability and transparency. They reiterated the need for more emphasis on the evaluation function, at the formulation and implementation stages, stressing that progress in this area in the last few years has been uneven. They urged that regional bureaux at all levels respect the use of evaluation and use it as a learning process to improve performance.

37. A number of delegations emphasized more focus on gender-related issues, such as tackling systemic issues of gender-based violence and increasing the gender perspective in the overall country programme. A few delegations stressed better coordination with development partners on cross-sectoral and cross-cutting issues. One delegation called for renewed attention to the critical role of sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, noting its importance in achieving the MDGs.

38. Delegations broadly supported the proposal for widening UNDP assistance to Myanmar. In building a country programme for sustainable long-term development cooperation in Myanmar, they urged UNDP to undertake the following: (a) broad consultation outside of the government, such as with the opposition, civil society and the growing number of international actors; (b) use of documented needs- and risk-assessments in formulating a programme; (c) piloting and testing of approaches before full-scale implementation; (d) creation of a tailored programme with high priority on governance, capacity-building, reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, and renewable energy, in close coordination with donors and other development actors. They requested a strategy on phasing out of the 'Human Development Initiative' and transitioning it to other entities.

39. Delegations whose countries were the subject of the new draft country programmes thanked UNDP for its support and the consultative processes that had taken place at the country level, especially through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. There were a few comments encouraging increased use of partnerships and South-South cooperation as a key approach to implementation and of lessons learned from previous programme cycles.

40. The Executive Board reviewed a total of 13 draft country programmes, namely: Africa region – Guinea, Lesotho, Mauritius and Sierra Leone; Asia and the Pacific States region – India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka; Arab States region – Djibouti and Jordan; Latin America and the Caribbean region – Belize, Bolivia and Costa Rica; Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States – Republic of Moldova.

41. Two-year extensions for Colombia, Comoros, Kuwait and a second one-year extension for Namibia, and Tunisia, from 1 January to December 2013, were approved by the Executive Board, on a no-objection basis.

42. The Executive Board also took note of the first one-year extensions for Bhutan, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria and Togo, as well as a six-month extension of the country programme for Rwanda (DP/2012/10 and Add.1.).

43. The Executive Board took note of the draft country programmes and extensions, and adopted decision 2012/11: UNDP Assistance to Myanmar; and, decision 2012/17: Request by Rwanda to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP.

VI. United Nations Capital Development Fund

44. The Associate Administrator opened the item by providing an overview of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) structure and mandate as a development financing institution. She highlighted key results and initiatives of UNCDF in promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth, remarking it is the only United Nations operational agency focused mainly on Least Developed Countries. In closing, she thanked the Executive Secretary ad interim for her leadership since April 2012.

45. The UNCDF Executive Secretary summarized the report on results achieved in 2011 (DP/2012/11) and provided perspectives for 2012 and beyond. She reflected on budget and programme growth, results, and innovation achieved in 2011. On priorities for 2012 and beyond, she touched upon the launch of products across a

range of areas of local finance development, climate change and clean energy. She spoke of strengthening partnerships for advocacy, knowledge and training, as well as focusing on performance, with increased investments for programme management and evaluation, gender and knowledge management and staff capacity. She also informed the Board that UNCDF faced two major challenges in terms of continued growth and innovation: (a) the extremely limited core funding; (b) the cost recovery policy, where greater flexibility could be introduced, particularly regarding contributions from private sources.

46. Delegations welcomed the 27 per cent increase in UNCDF contributions when compared to the 2010 level and recognized the rising demand for services. At the same time, they expressed concern that the growth in contribution is largely due to earmarked contributions. They also expressed concern that launching too many products and too much rapid growth could lead to programme fragmentation weakening UNCDF added-value and creating challenges both for management of the organization and Executive Board oversight. In addition, they underlined a potential problem with government contributions being used to compensate for inadequate cost-recovery from private foundations, especially given the small size of the agency, and requested more information on how UNCDF will address this issue.

47. On future resourcing and private sector initiatives, delegations called for more core resources. In terms of finding sustainable sources of new funding, a few delegations suggested to more involve middle-income countries as it is in the interest of those same countries to see recovery in their respective regions. In this respect, they emphasized the importance for differentiated support by the United Nations system to enable middle-income countries to increase their involvement in development initiatives. To this end, they stressed the need for appropriate adjustment of cost-recovery of middle-income countries' development cooperation efforts, whether in the public or private sectors.

48. In future reports, delegations stressed strengthening of results reporting at the outcome level will make the communication of positive and negative results more effective. They looked forward to the broad stakeholder consultation later this year on the future of UNCDF.

49. The Executive Secretary thanked delegations for their comments. She welcomed further dialogue with the Executive Board in the upcoming stakeholder's meeting, specifically on the need to balance growth with focus of mandate, and the appropriate funding model for UNCDF. In response to questions asked, she spoke of several initiatives and partnerships underway with regard to better measurement of impact, clean energy for the poor, involvement of middle-income countries in assisting Least Developed Countries, and ability of local and national government to generate their own sources of revenue.

50. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/12: Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2011.

VII. United Nations Volunteers

51. The Associate Administrator introduced the item by emphasizing the importance of volunteerism as a powerful development tool. She highlighted the key role of UNV in promoting youth volunteerism, as well as the successful commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, which included the launch of the first ever State of the World's Volunteerism Report. In closing, she gave words of remembrance for the UN Volunteers who died in 2010 and 2011, and thanked all UN Volunteers for their contributions to peace and development. In announcing this was the last Board session of the Executive Coordinator and Deputy

Executive Coordinator due to completion of their assignments, she emphasized they would be leaving an important legacy in UNV, for which she thanked them.

52. The UNV Executive Coordinator presented the annual report of the Administrator (DP/2012/12) by providing an overview of results achieved during the 2010-2011 biennium and the challenges and opportunities looking ahead. She also paid tribute to all UN Volunteers and UNV staff, for their contributions to peace and development through volunteerism.

53. Delegations paid tribute to UN Volunteers who have lost their lives while in the line of duty. They expressed their appreciation for the leadership of the Executive Coordinator and Deputy Executive Coordinator in promoting volunteerism in support of peace and development efforts, noting in particular environmental protection and youth action. To this end, they encouraged integration of volunteerism into the post-2015 agenda, the United Nations development system, joint programming, as well as in developing of the UNDP 2014-2017 strategic plan and new development goals.

54. Delegations widely praised the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers and the launch of the first State of the World's Volunteerism Report. In this respect, they encouraged UNV to continue the publication of this report in future years. They also requested further information on plans for enhancing volunteerism awareness and promoting partnerships, particularly at the community level, among youth, and with non-traditional donor countries and the private sector.

55. A number of delegations spoke specifically about the positive impact of youth volunteers and examples of initiatives in their respective countries in collaboration with UNV, including at Rio+20. They stressed the positive impact in both the short-term and long-term of training youth in volunteerism, especially those coming from under-privileged circumstances. In this respect, they supported the establishment of a dedicated youth volunteer trust fund initiative.

56. Delegations took note of the development of a results framework and encouraged UNV to refine and continue to develop it for improving results-based reporting based on UNV's cumulative experience. In addition, they encouraged UNV to undertake more corporate-level strategic, thematic and project-based evaluation for accountability and to improve staff and UN Volunteer performance. In future reports, they would like to see inclusion of lessons learned and steps taken in response to evaluation recommendations. They welcomed the publication of the handbook on assessing contribution of volunteerism to development and requested to know how it will be used to support future evaluations.

57. Delegations noted their understanding that all international UN Volunteers are covered for functional privileges and immunities under the UNDP Standard Basic Assistance Agreements, regardless of the United Nations entity they are assigned to. They also expressed concern about the dearth of female volunteers, especially in peacekeeping missions, and noted the need to strive for a better gender balance.

58. The United Nations Department of Field Support and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warmly welcomed and commended the work of UNV in terms of achievements, partnerships and synergies, as well as the significant contribution UN Volunteers make to their operations. The International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies noted their solid partnership with UNV, especially in advocacy for recognising the impact of volunteerism.

59. The Executive Coordinator thanked delegations for their supportive comments on the work of UNV and UN Volunteers. She acknowledged the focus that UNV already gives to opportunities for youth, especially those most disadvantaged, and noted the example of Brazil (Rio+20) in this respect. She reaffirmed commitment to

the screening processes of UN Volunteers to ensure balanced representation of all nationalities, as well as continuing efforts to increase the number of female UN Volunteers which are already starting to produce results. She touched upon initiatives taken in the area of evaluation, including on-going and upcoming evaluations with partners and the availability of evaluations and management responses on the UNDP evaluation website. With regard to the future, she welcomed engagement with the private sector and non-traditional donors, building capacities for national volunteer programmes, as well as to play an active role in the UNDP 2014-2017 strategic plan, post-2015 agenda and other frameworks.

60. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/13: United Nations Volunteers: report of the Administrator.

UNOPS segment

VIII. Statement by the Executive Director and annual report of the Executive Director

61. In presenting the annual report for 2011 (DP/OPS/2012/4), the Executive Director reflected on progress on financial, operational and procurement results, as well as related challenges and opportunities, especially within the context of global financial uncertainty. He highlighted the scale of construction, procurement and training done on behalf of partners, the increased focus on low-income and conflict-affected countries and milestones in measurement against international benchmarks for quality and transparency. In this regard, he spoke of UNOPS as becoming the first United Nations agency to publish in the International Aid Transparency Initiative format and the launch of data.unops.org, a website for the public to easily access information. In looking ahead, he spoke of strengthening partnerships, reporting of results and impact, as well as initiatives toward sustainable infrastructure in light of Rio+20. He stressed that while the year could be characterized as reaping rewards following several years of difficult reform, the organization will continue to embrace change to improve, identify and meet challenges in the future.

62. UNOPS Head of Communication then provided an update on the status and future direction of transparency tools designed for public use and the promotion of development effectiveness.

63. Delegations congratulated on results across a spectrum of issues, including adherence to the self-financing principle, management and focus on the agency's areas of speciality, despite the overall reduction in the total monetary value of delivery. They reiterated the need to address the challenge faced by UNOPS to evaluate outcomes in the long-term. In this regard, in future reports they would like to see more input on the contribution of UNOPS activities at the outcome level, such as the one presented in box 5 of the Annual report, and urged fo stepped-up engagement with partners in measuring impact. In addition, there was a request for details on how UNOPS advisory services have bolstered national purchasing systems, infrastructure, planning and management.

64. Delegations made special mention of the successes of the transparency agenda and harmonization of data. They called the results "ground-breaking" among United Nations agencies, praising the International Aid Transparency Initiative achievements, the awarding of the ISO 9001 certification for the global management system, among others. They encouraged UNOPS to share best practices in these areas.

65. On operations, delegations welcomed the significant increase of services to low-income countries and conflict-affected areas. They commended the predominance of field-based staff, use of local resources and contributions to capacity-development. Building on these successes, delegations suggested additional focus on improving capacity of developing countries in project management, accountability and efficient procurement systems. They proposed as well as to mainstream the capacity development agenda in UNOPS work with other United Nations agencies.

66. Delegations stated their appreciation for the organization's procurement practices, especially issuing of clear and understandable tender documents, receiving the award of (CIPS) certification, and managing cost-effectiveness. They urged for more efforts in enabling developing countries to fairly participate in international procurement and to proactively encourage other United Nations agencies to increase their use of local resources.

67. Delegations acknowledged the increase of UNOPS alliances with other development actors, financial institutions, potential donor countries, private and non-profit entities. In this respect, they requested information on partnership strategies at the global, regional and national levels, as well as for tapping into the potential of South-South cooperation.

68. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their encouraging comments. On improving reporting of results at the outcome level in future annual reports, he reaffirmed commitment to further evolve impact measurement with partners. Within this context, he welcomed additional dialogue with the Board in preparing the next strategic plan (2014-2017) to identify areas important for measurement and reporting purposes.

69. He acknowledged the potential of South-South cooperation and confirmed this as an area for further support. He emphasized latest examples of UNOPS collaboration with developing countries, such as in promoting climate-proof infrastructure in general and at Rio+20, as well as support for developing countries as donors, such as Brazil and India, to assist in building infrastructure in less-industrialized countries like Haiti.

70. The Director reflected on outcomes from the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan) as a way forward for UNOPS in determining more selective and strategic partnerships and providing advisory services. To this end, he noted the increase of demand from middle-income countries for advice on areas ranging from engineering of roads and solid waste systems, to procurement processes and tendering of emergency items. In closing, he offered to share UNOPS experience in the International Aid Transparency Initiative with other United Nations agencies, some of whom have already expressed interest, and in so doing, thanked UNDP for its support during the initial phase of the project.

71. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/16: Annual report of the Executive Director, UNOPS.

Joint segment

IX. Internal audit and oversight

72. The Director, Office of Audit and Investigations, UNDP, the Director, Division for Oversight Services, UNFPA, and the Director of Internal Audit and Investigations Group, UNOPS, introduced the respective annual reports (DP/2012/13/rev.1; DP/FPA/2012/9; and, DP/OPS/2012/5).

73. The UNDP Associate Administrator, the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Management), and the UNOPS Deputy Executive Director presented the respective management responses of the three organizations.

74. In their general remarks, delegations commended the management of all three organizations for showing leadership in responding to the international community's calls to make their respective agencies more accountable and effective. Delegations appreciated the substantial progress achieved in implementation of recommendations.

75. Delegations supported the joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS proposal for the full public disclosure of audit reports. They stressed the need to ensure safeguards for confidentiality. In addition, they requested more information on how the three organizations would boost capacity in their respective offices of audit and investigations to respond to an expected increase in audit inquiries and/or requests for internal audit reports.

UNDP

76. Delegations welcomed the comprehensive report and commended the high turnover of work undertaken. They supported the approach to jointly audit multi-partner trust funds and Delivering as One programmes and encouraged proactive sharing of lessons learned for use in other joint ventures, such as cash transfer harmonization and developing advisory guidance for staff. In addition, comment was made for UNDP to provide further information on innovations in carrying out audits.

77. Delegations expressed concern about the continued high level of recommendations in human resources, project management, and procurement, and the number of those rated as "partially satisfactory." They urged for action to reform and manage performance in these areas. On those audit recommendations currently being acted upon, they requested assurance that remedial measures were being used to address poor performance. Several delegations were interested to know how recommendations are shared with respective audited country offices for follow-up action and underlined the need for a uniform application of procedures for audits undertaken by private firms.

78. For future reports, a number of delegations requested reflection of strengths of UNDP operations and for management response to be more explicit on the implications of identified weaknesses.

79. Delegations reiterated the need for sufficient allocation of resources and capacity in the audit function. They noted these have remained at a minimum level despite the evident increase in volume of work. They stressed that making savings in this area would not be advisable as contributions are based on the trust of well-managed funds.

80. Delegations broadly supported the proposal for the public disclosure of internal audit reports. A few delegations called for publication and updating of the status of implementation of recommendations on the website, too.

81. The UNDP Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their comments. She remarked on mechanisms being put in place under the agenda for organizational change to address the remaining number of recommendations in the aforementioned areas of concern, and procurement measures underway for more flexibility at the Country Office level to address local context and improve staff capacity. The Director of the Office of Audit and Investigations further remarked that the selection process for audit firms would be strengthened for consistent application of criteria and results and reaffirmed commitment to quality assurance and continuing swift action to address misconduct complaints.

82. The Chair, UNDP Audit Advisory Committee, reiterated the importance of sufficient resources to address audit and investigations issues, especially for public disclosure of internal audit reports.

UNFPA

83. Several delegations commended the UNFPA Executive Director and staff on the substantial improvements in the implementation of audit recommendations, including in the area of national execution (NEX). They looked forward to further improvements, including the new staff development programme. Noting their concern regarding recurrent findings on compliance with processes and procedures, they hoped to see increased training and supervision to ensure 100 per cent compliance. They urged UNFPA to implement the recommendations within its control and noted that they looked forward to seeing the report of the Board of Auditors, which recognized the progress made by UNFPA. One delegation asked to know more about the audits of the Delivering as One pilots and self-starters. Referring to the draft decision on the public disclosure of internal audit reports, the delegation drew attention to the principles enshrined in the decision adopted recently by the UNICEF Executive Board, including the emphasis on safeguarding confidentiality.

84. Delegations noted that the most fundamental issue for UNFPA was the implementation of the 15 recommendations issued by DOS in DP/FPA/2011/5. They commended the strong commitment of UNFPA to implementing the recommendations, including the efforts to increase knowledge management, results-based management, evidence-based programming, quality assurance and country office risk mapping. Noting the progress evidenced in those areas, they encouraged UNFPA to continue its efforts. They welcomed the publishing of the status of implementation of recommendations. They asked that the units/divisions with responsibility for implementing the audit recommendations be specified in future reports.

85. Observing that only a few internal audit engagements were rated "satisfactory", delegations encouraged UNFPA to address the issues and asked to hear the reflections of the Director, DOS. The delegations noted that the NEX audit process was rated satisfactory as a result of bold steps taken by UNFPA to rectify shortcomings. Regarding the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), they urged UNFPA to address the issues pertaining to inventory management. Furthermore, they asked if the present capacity of the DOS Internal Audit Branch was sufficient to both monitor implementation of the 15 recommendations and undertake a sufficient number of country assessments. They welcomed the efforts to prevent and detect financial misconduct and encouraged continued reporting on it in the DOS annual report, including estimates of financial loss. The delegations were encouraged by the substantive reduction in post vacancies and asked UNFPA to maintain the progress achieved.

86. The Deputy Executive Director (Management) thanked the Member States for their acknowledgement of the significant work undertaken by UNFPA to respond to the audit recommendations. She agreed that in future reports UNFPA would specify the units/divisions responsible for implementation of the 15 DOS recommendations. She added that, like UNDP, UNFPA would provide information on follow-up to investigations of misconduct. Regarding IPSAS, she assured the Executive Board that UNFPA was confident about addressing inventory management and fixed assets by the end of the year. She noted that vacancy management was part of the business plan implementation and UNFPA would continue its focus on improving recruitment speed and succession planning.

87. The Director, DOS, referred to the joint audit work with UNDP and other agencies, and the issuance of a single report on the harmonized approach to cash

transfers and Delivering as One; as well as to the joint work at the level of the Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations, Multilateral Financial Institutions and Associated International Organizations. Noting that DOS had three functions, namely, evaluation, internal audit and investigation, she observed that the adoption of a decision on the public disclosure of internal audit reports would increase the Internal Audit Branch workload. She noted that maintaining audit coverage and complying with confidentiality safeguards posed a challenge for DOS and she welcomed management support in addressing it. Regarding audit coverage, she stated that in 2012 the DOS plan was a balance between country office engagements and headquarters engagements, the latter being cross-organizational in nature. Noting that some donors had requested access to NEX audit reports, she pointed out that those were not UNFPA reports and the organization's role was to serve as a conduit and ask the implementing partners if they were willing to disclose their reports to the requesting donors. Regarding misconduct, she supported disclosure of actions taken following investigations, as it acted as a deterrent measure. She concluded by thanking her UNDP counterpart (who would be retiring) for his collaboration.

88. The Chair of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) stated that the Committee took its responsibilities seriously. Concerns regarding NEX had been reported by AAC since its first report. The AAC Chair registered his satisfaction that the UNFPA audit qualification had been removed. He attributed that accomplishment to the strong leadership of the UNFPA Executive Director and the Director, Division for Management Services.

UNOPS

89. Delegations expressed appreciation for the ongoing strengthening and progress of transparency and accountability in UNOPS over the last four years and in 2011. They specifically commended the introduction of the simple reporting format that emphasizes clear observations, objective analysis and action-oriented recommendations. They hoped this would enhance effectiveness of the audit function, as well as make reports more user-friendly tools for managers.

90. Delegations were pleased with the improved quality of submitted recommendations and the quantity of actions taken on recommendations. However, they expressed concern that no audit received a satisfactory rating in 2011 and that project and internal audit reports revealed recurring weaknesses in project management, financial controls, procurement, and human resources. They urged for these systemic issues to be addressed as soon as possible. One delegation emphasized the need for regional and country offices to be more scrupulous and timely in the implementation of audit recommendations to achieve satisfactory auditor's assessments, and in this regard, for improved monitoring and oversight and instructions to staff.

91. The UNOPS Director of Internal Audit and Investigations Group and the Deputy Executive Director had no additional comments.

Disclosure of internal audit reports

92. The UNDP Associate Administrator presented, on behalf of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, the proposal for achieving full transparency with regard to disclosure of internal audit reports (DP-FPA-OPS/2012/1). The UNDP Director, Office of Audit and Investigations, noted the increase of interaction with Member States on the disclosure of internal audit reports and welcomed further discussion as needed in the future.

93. No delegations took the floor.

94. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/18: Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and oversight activities in 2011.

X. Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Ethics Offices

95. The former Director, Ethics Office, UNDP, the Adviser, Ethics Office, UNFPA, and the Director, Internal Audit and Investigations Group, on behalf of the Ethics Officer, UNOPS, introduced the annual reports on activities (DP/2012/14; DP/FPA/2012/10; and, DP/OPS/2012/6).

96. The UNDP Associate Administrator and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Management) presented the respective management responses. The Deputy Executive Director, UNOPS, provided brief comment.

97. In their general remarks addressed to the three organizations, delegations thanked management for their leadership and commitment to promoting a culture of ethics and recognized the increase in the number of requests for services within the respective ethics offices in 2011. Delegations stressed the critical role of the ethics function in promoting integrity. They encouraged management to treat ethics as a high priority and to use all available training opportunities and resources to bring ethics issues to the attention of staff.

98. Delegations stressed the importance of whistle-blower protection as it affects the ability of staff members to report fraud, waste and abuse. They were interested to know what steps the organizations would take to ensure that staff members felt confident in the protection they would receive if targeted for retaliation.

99. In emphasizing the crucial role of training and outreach, delegations urged increasing activities in those areas, including face-to-face training and various technological options, such as e-learning, for cost-effectiveness.

UNDP

100. Delegations commended UNDP for receiving a positive peer review on its work. They were especially pleased with the high rate of financial information disclosure compliance during the year. However, they identified late filing as an area for improvement. They also expressed concern for timely resolution of conflict of interest cases, noting that a number still remained from the 2009 cycle. In this regard, they wanted information on actions taken to resolve conflicts or use of sanctions for non-compliance.

101. The former UNDP Director, Ethics Office, then updated the Executive Board on steps taken and outcomes in closing the aforementioned remaining conflict of interest cases. She also reaffirmed the organization's commitment to step-up communication to staff on whistle-blower protection efforts.

UNFPA

102. Several delegations commended the work of the UNFPA Ethics Office and noted the commitment of UNFPA management to enhancing a culture of ethics in the organization. They underscored the importance of the timely submission of financial disclosure statements and inquired about the follow-up undertaken on the one conflict of interest situation that was identified. They inquired about the steps taken to address staff concerns about retaliation.

103. The Adviser, Ethics Office, UNFPA, thanked delegations for their constructive comments. She noted that 75 per cent of the required staff had filed their financial disclosure statements on time and the remainder had done so within two weeks of the deadline and had informed the Ethics Office. She assured the Executive Board that UNFPA would strive for deadline compliance. Regarding the one conflict of interest situation, she informed the Board that it was in relation to an outside activity and had been satisfactorily resolved: the Ethics Office had followed up with the staff member to ensure that the processes were followed to secure authorization. Concerning the issue of retaliation, she clarified that retaliation may occur outside the ambit of the

whistle-blower protection policy and, thus, management would need to ensure that no form of retaliation occurs in the organization.

UNOPS

104. Delegations reiterated their appreciation for a high rate of compliance of financial disclosure in 2011. Along these lines, they requested more information regarding any late filing issues in UNOPS.

105. The UNOPS Deputy Executive Director explained the special challenges for UNOPS of timely filing of financial disclosure, which has been in part due to the significant number of contractors who do not work for UNOPS on a day-to-day basis. He also provided an overview of actions already taken to successfully remedy this issue.

106. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/19: Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

UNFPA segment

XI. Statement by the Executive Director and annual report of the Executive Director

107. In his statement the Executive Director focused on UNFPA progress and achievements in 2011, the global policy environment, and the challenges facing the organization and how it was responding to them. He underscored the interlinkages between the Rio+20 outcome, the United Nations development agenda post-2015 and the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). He stressed the need to remain resolute in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including tackling inequalities, particularly regarding addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, namely, young people and women, particularly adolescent girls. The Executive Director discussed United Nations coherence, One UN, Delivering as One and the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR). He focused on other areas of critical importance to UNFPA operations: humanitarian response; staff security; evaluation; financial regulations and rules, and the budget; the revised strategic plan and the business plan; the expected clean audit, largely due to the turnaround in the area of the national execution modality; the upcoming London Family Planning Summit; and resources. Underscoring his commitment to accountability, he stated that UNFPA practiced zero tolerance of unethical behaviour. He thanked delegations for their support and looked forward to continued close engagement with the Executive Board.

108. Numerous delegations commended the Executive Director's insightful statement and the update on the business plan implementation. Noting the results delineated in the annual report (DP/FPA/2012/6, Part I, Part I/Add.1, and Part II), delegations appreciated the improvement in reporting, particularly the transparency in discussing challenges in such areas as evaluation and the implementation of audit recommendations.

109. Several delegations commended the annual report's results analysis, including the clear reporting in relation to targets and indicators of the development results framework (DRF) and the management results framework (MRF); and the analysis of lessons learned and challenges. Some delegations stated that they expected that under the revised results framework there would be further improvements in systematic results reporting with clearer analysis on how activities and outputs related to outcomes and impacts at country level. While some delegations requested

more information on results achieved, others called for a more descriptive rather than an indicators-driven report on progress, as it would afford more details of work done on the ground. They expressed concern that there was a lack of data for a sizeable number of indicators and urged UNFPA to indicate in future annual reports the measures undertaken and the progress achieved in enhancing data quality and availability. Further reporting was requested regarding the Fund's partnership with other multilateral agencies, including UN-Women. One delegation noted that a balanced representation from programme countries within the United Nations funds and programmes, in particular UNFPA, would contribute positively to policy formulation and programme implementation.

110. Delegations hoped that the process for developing the new strategic plan would be as inclusive and consultative as the midterm review (MTR) process. It was stated that the new strategic plan should demonstrate an improved focus on how UNFPA would deliver and measure results and ensure "clear value for money" both through programming choices and resource allocation. In that regard, cost-effectiveness and strong financial management were emphasized. One delegation commented on the need to review the system for the allocation of UNFPA resources to country programmes.

111. Several delegations referred to the previous week's Rio+20 conference and noted the references in the outcome document to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including family planning. They urged an intensification of international efforts to achieve MDG 5. The key role of UNFPA in addressing the SRH needs of women and men, including young people; and the importance of the Fund's human rights-based approach were underscored. UNFPA was encouraged to further emphasize the importance of involving men and boys in all aspects of reproductive health and rights. Some delegations noted that UNFPA should work closely with non-governmental organizations and women's and youth groups to ensure the inclusion of population issues in the new development goals.

112. A number of delegations welcomed the contribution of UNFPA to achieving a positive outcome at the Commission on Population and Development. One delegation asked that UNFPA provide a briefing on the ICPD Beyond 2014 process at the Executive Board's next session. Numerous delegations underscored that the upcoming QCPR offered important opportunities to strengthen the focus on results and effective collaboration amongst agencies at the country level. In that regard, UNFPA was encouraged to share with Member States challenges, lessons learned and obstacles encountered.

113. Delegations appreciated the strengthened focus on the country programme development process. The Fund's commitment to United Nations reform and system-wide coherence, including the harmonization of business practices, was noted with satisfaction. Several delegations underscored the importance of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, particularly in delivering results. They called on UNFPA to increase support for South-South cooperation. One delegation encouraged UNFPA to continue building synergies between economic and social programmes and looked forward to future reporting on it. A number of delegations commended the work of UNFPA in coordinating the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Djibouti and Ethiopia. The Fund's ongoing efforts to implement its second-generation humanitarian response strategy were commended and UNFPA was encouraged to increase technical and management capacity at subregional and country levels for improved preparedness and response, as well as to work effectively with partners in crisis and humanitarian settings.

114. The African States noted that countries in Africa faced many challenges, in particular, MDG 5 was far from being achieved. It was underscored that if the ICPD goals and the MDGs were to be met, socioeconomic inequalities must be addressed

and, in particular, educational and job opportunities must be increased, especially for young people. The need for further engagement by the international development community was underscored.

115. The Asian States noted that, with the world population increasing, UNFPA would need to continue delivering on its mandate, particularly in addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable population groups; and in strengthening programmes focusing on gender equality and women's rights. It was stated that employment and job creation should be elements of future programmes and UNFPA should collaborate with other partners in those areas. In that regard, the Rio+20 outcome document provided guidance.

116. UNFPA was asked to be more active in seeking value for money in procurement, including the best prices for commodities security. Noting that steps were under way to strengthen the skills of procurement staff at headquarters, one delegation asked what action was being taken to improve the procurement capability of staff in the field.

117. While noting that there had been a strengthening of the UNFPA evaluation function and an increase in the number of country programme evaluations, some delegations expressed concern regarding the quality of evaluations. They looked forward to the conclusion of the review of the UNFPA evaluation policy, undertaken by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and indicated that they were ready to work with UNFPA on ways in which the review's recommendations could be implemented. They encouraged UNFPA to continue strengthening the evaluation function in the Fund; and to improve the oversight, risk management, audit and investigation functions. It was underscored that an independent and strengthened evaluation office was critical for transparency and for all stakeholders to have confidence in the work of UNFPA.

118. Several delegations expressed support for the proposal for achieving full transparency with regard to the disclosure of internal audit reports. Delegations congratulated UNFPA for having signed up for the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

119. Some delegations referred to the upcoming London Family Planning Summit and noted that it offered an opportunity to take urgent action in addressing the unmet need for family planning. The Summit would provide innovative public-private and civil society partnerships to transform the lives of women, men and adolescents. UNFPA leadership in building support for the Summit continued to be critical. The delegations recognized the UNFPA Executive Director's commitment to strengthening the Fund's work on family planning, including through the efforts of the flagship Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security.

120. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board for its support and the positive and constructive comments on UNFPA work, including the Fund's leadership role in promoting reproductive health and rights. He appreciated the Board's feedback regarding clear reporting in relation to targets and indicators and the inclusion of challenges and lessons learned. He noted that the next annual report, based on the revised results frameworks, would be a further improvement. Providing specific country examples, he elaborated on the significant impact resulting from the extrabudgetary resources for family planning and noted that the data demonstrated "value for money" and a need for increased funding to meet high unmet need. He stated that improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity required longer term investments in systems strengthening and capacity-building, including strengthening health systems and building a cadre of competent health workers with midwifery skills. He highlighted the gaps that existed at the policy, financing and delivery levels and the barriers women and adolescents faced in accessing services. In many countries, emergency obstetric and newborn care did not

exist or was of inadequate quality. He elaborated on the Fund's sharpened country focus, including realigning country programmes to reflect the revised DRF; and a recommitment to integrated support to the field as a key priority, including the establishment of two cross-divisional thematic clusters (on women's reproductive health; and adolescents and youth).

121. Given the Fund's significant efforts, the Executive Director was optimistic that a clean audit would be obtained for 2010-2011. Regarding the quality of evaluations, he concurred that the quality was not as high as desired. He provided details of the comprehensive strategy being implemented to improve evaluation quality, including the strengthening of results and monitoring and evaluation frameworks; the development and enhancement of guidelines; and staff training. UNFPA looked forward to the outcome of the OIOS review of the evaluation policy. The Executive Director reiterated the Fund's commitment, inter alia, to the QCPR, system-wide coherence, Delivering as One and United Nations reform. He appreciated the feedback regarding UNFPA humanitarian response and stated that it was necessary to mainstream humanitarian response in order to deliver better. Furthermore, additional resources were required. He delineated measures that UNFPA had put in place to enhance efficiency, optimize results and ensure value for money, including measures to build staff capacity on procurement. He assured the Executive Board of his commitment to continue strengthening accountability and transparency. He thanked the Board for its support and encouragement and looked forward to working closely with the Board in developing the new strategic plan and the integrated budget.

122. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/14: Report of the Executive Director for 2011: progress in implementing the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013.

XII. Funding commitments to UNFPA

123. The Director, Information and External Relations Division, introduced the report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2012 and future years (DP/FPA/2012/7) and provided an update on the revenue forecast estimates for regular and co-financing resources.

124. Several delegations appreciated the clear and comprehensive report and noted that despite a challenging global economic climate UNFPA had managed to increase the Fund's revenue by 7.6 per cent in 2011. They commended UNFPA on the impressive achievement, while adding that they would have liked to see an increase in contributions to regular resources. They shared the Executive Director's concern regarding the trend towards increased co-financing resources and a decrease in contributions to regular resources. They underscored that regular resources were the bedrock of UNFPA activities and the Fund's ability to deliver on the strategic plan. While stating that they gave priority to regular resources in their contributions to UNFPA, they encouraged other donors to consider increasing or prioritizing contributions to regular resources.

125. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for being strong advocates for regular resources funding. He encouraged all traditional and emerging donors to assist UNFPA in implementing the development agenda that the Fund drives. He emphasized that UNFPA would engage the Member States in transforming the landscape for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. He underscored the importance of South-South cooperation, including for mobilizing resources.

126. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/15: Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2012 and future years.

XIII. UNFPA country programmes and related matters

127. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) provided an overview of the 12 draft country programme documents (CPDs) submitted to the Executive Board for review: for Africa – Guinea, Lesotho and Sierra Leone; for Arab States – Djibouti and Jordan; for Asia and the Pacific – India, Nepal, Pacific Island countries and territories, and Sri Lanka; for Eastern Europe and Central Asia – the Republic of Moldova; and for Latin America and the Caribbean – Bolivia and Costa Rica. She also introduced programme extensions for: Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo from the Africa region; the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia from the Arab States region; Bhutan from the Asia and the Pacific region; and Colombia, Cuba and Mexico from the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Next, the UNFPA Regional Directors for Africa; Arab States; Asia and the Pacific; Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean elaborated on the programmes from their respective regions.

128. Delegations appreciated that UNFPA had engaged in close consultation with the respective Governments and development partners in developing the draft CPDs. They commended the alignment with national plans and priorities, as well as the support for Delivering as One. Furthermore, they commended the key role of UNFPA in responding to the reproductive health, including family planning, priorities of countries; addressing the needs of adolescents and youth, and underserved population groups; and focusing attention on gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence. UNFPA was invited to share and disseminate examples of programme success stories. Several delegations appreciated the support provided by UNFPA and referred to their respective country's long-standing partnership with UNFPA.

129. Some delegations commented on specific draft CPDs, including suggestions regarding the need to: further reduce maternal mortality; increase collaboration with bilateral and other development partners, including those working to address humanitarian situations; increase support for Demographic Health Surveys; increase the percentage target for young women and men with comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS; address contraceptive commodity security challenges; and enhance the focus on risk mitigation.

130. Some delegations commended the tiered programme approach and the internal review process introduced in some programmes. They supported the focus on a modest number of specific outputs and drew attention to the significant maternal and child health challenges and large unmet needs in family planning in some countries and territories. Delegations also supported the priority UNFPA placed on training, as well as UNFPA efforts to improve data integrity and build local capacity. The emphasis on South-South cooperation was welcomed, including partnerships with the private sector. Some delegations commended UNFPA for effectively coordinating the 2012 joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Djibouti and Ethiopia.

131. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the Executive Board members for their support. She assured the Board members that in carrying out its work UNFPA would continue to sharpen programmatic focus, including emphasizing clear priorities and targeted outcomes. The UNFPA Regional Directors thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and support and assured the Executive Board that in accordance with decision 2006/36 the comments on the draft CPDs would be conveyed to the concerned countries to take into account in finalizing the CPDs.

132. The Executive Board approved the programme extensions for Colombia, Comoros, Namibia, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia; and took note of the

programme extensions for Bhutan, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo. In addition, the Board took note of the following 12 draft CPDs and the comments made thereon: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guinea, India, Jordan, Lesotho, Nepal, Pacific Island countries and territories, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka. The comments would be conveyed by UNFPA to the respective countries.

133. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/17: Request by Rwanda to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP.

XIV. Other matters

Informal consultations

134. The following informal consultations were held:

(a) Informal consultation on lessons learned from annual reporting relevant to the design of the next UNDP strategic plan and the results framework and on the roadmap for the implementation of Executive Board decision 2011/14;

(b) UNOPS informal consultation on the midterm review of the strategic plan, 2010-2013;

(c) Joint informal consultation on the UNDP annual report on evaluation and on the UNFPA biennial report on evaluation.